

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0004] of the specification with the following:

-- [0004] A known process for producing hydrogen from hydrocarbons or oxygen-containing hydrocarbons is an autothermal reforming method which is the combination of an oxidation reaction and a steam reforming reaction. In this process, hydrocarbons or ~~nitrogen~~-oxygen-containing hydrocarbons, steam, and oxygen or air are introduced into a reactor, and a part of the hydrocarbons or oxygen-containing hydrocarbons is subjected to partial or complete combustion. While the reactor is then heated to a predetermined temperature with the heat generated by the combustion, the remaining hydrocarbons or oxygen-containing hydrocarbons are steam-reformed such that they are converted to a reformed gas which is composed principally of hydrogen. While a catalyst is charged into the reactor, it is required to have a combustion activity and a steam reforming activity. --